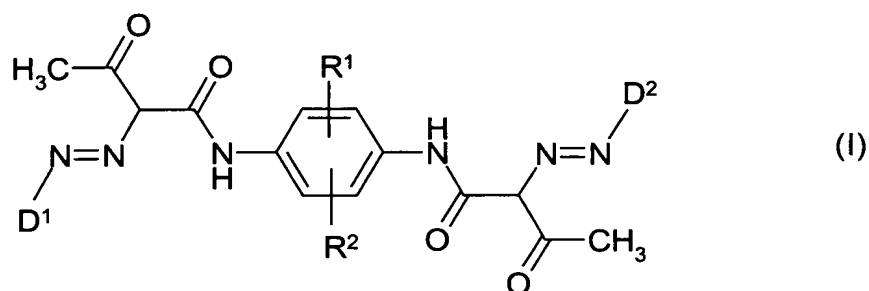


Amendments to the Claims

1) (Currently Amended) A process for preparing ~~disazo pigments~~ a disazo pigment or a mixture of disazo pigments of the formula (I) by azo coupling



~~or a mixture of said disazo pigments by azo coupling, where~~ wherein,

R¹ and R² are identical or different and are hydrogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, C₁-C₅ alkoxy carbonyl, nitro, cyano, halogen, phenoxy or trifluoromethyl;

D¹ and D² are identical or different and are an aromatic heterocycle selected from the group consisting of benzimidazole, benzimidazolone, benzimidazolethione, benzoxazole, benzoxazolone, benzothiazolone, indazole, phthalimide, naphthalimide, benzotriazole, quinoline, benzodiazines, phenmorpholine, phenmorpholinone, benzo[c,d]indolone, benzimidazo[1,2-a]pyrimidone, carbazole and indole, said heterocycles being unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, 3 or 4 identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of halogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, acetamido, carbomethoxyamino, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, nitro, phenyl, phenoxy ~~or and~~ trifluoromethyl, ~~it being possible for wherein~~ the phenyl radical to be optionally substituted by chloro, methyl or methoxy, and said wherein the heterocycle being is attached directly or via a phenylene group to the azo group in formula (I),

~~which comprises~~ comprising the step of subjecting the azo coupling product to a finish in at least one organic solvent in the presence of a base selected from the group consisting of alkali metal hydroxides and alkali metal alkoxides, or in an

~~aqueous-organic solvent~~ solution containing the at least one organic solvent, at alkali pH ≥ 9 .

2) (Original) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein R¹ and R² are identical or different and are hydrogen, methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, butoxy, fluoro, chloro, bromo, cyano, nitro, methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl or trifluoromethyl.

3) (Original) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the aromatic heterocycle is a benzimidazolone, phthalimide, naphthalimide, quinazoline, quinazolinone, quinazolinedione, phthalazine, phthalazinone, phthalazinedione, quinoxaline, quinoxalinone or quinoxalinedione.

4) (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, wherein the heterocycles D¹ and D² are unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2 or 3 identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of methyl, ethyl, methoxy, ethoxy, nitro, fluoro, chloro, bromo, phenyl ~~or~~ and trifluoromethyl.

5) (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, wherein the azo coupling product is ~~used~~ in the form of a presscake, as granules or as a powder.

6) (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 5~~claim 1, wherein the ~~coupling product is finished in~~ subjecting step is performed on a suspension containing from 1 to 50% by weight, ~~preferably from 2 to 20% by weight, in particular from 3 to 17.5% by weight of the~~ azo coupling product, based on the total weight of the suspension.

7) (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 6~~claim 1, wherein the at least one organic solvent for the finish is selected from the group consisting of an alcohol having 1 to 20 carbon atoms, a glycol, glycerol, a

polyglycol, an ether, a glycol ether, a ketone, an aliphatic acid amide, a urea derivative, a cyclic carboxamide, an ester of an aliphatic or aromatic carboxylic acid, a nitrile, an aliphatic, an aromatic or araliphatic hydrocarbon, an alkyl-, alkoxy-, nitro-, and/or halogen-substituted benzene, an aromatic heterocycle, hexamethylphosphoramide, 1,3-dimethyl-2-imidazolidinone; a sulfone, a sulfoxide; or a mixture of these solvents and mixtures thereof.

8) (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 7~~claim 1, wherein the at least one organic solvent ~~for the finish~~ is a C₁-C₆ alcohol, particularly ~~methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, isobutanol, tert. butanol or tert. amyl alcohol, or butyl glycol,~~ dimethylformamide, N,N-dimethylacetamide, N-methylpyrrolidone ~~or dimethylsulfoxide, or a mixture~~ mixtures thereof.

9) (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 8~~claim 1, wherein the aqueous-organic solvent solution contains from 2.5 to 95% by weight, ~~preferably from 5 to 90% by weight,~~ by weight of the at least one organic solvent.

10) (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 9~~claim 1, wherein the ~~finish takes place~~subjecting step occurs at an alkali pH of greater than 9.5.

11) (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 10~~claim 1, wherein the ~~finish~~subjecting step is carried out at a temperature of between 0 and 250°C, ~~preferably between 15 and 200°C.~~

12) (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 11~~claim 1, wherein the ~~finish~~subjecting step is carried out for a time of from 5 minutes to 96 hours.

13) (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in ~~one or more of claims 1 to 12, wherein following a finish at alkali pH an acid is added~~ claim 1, further comprising the step of adding an acid after the subjecting step at alkali pH.

14) (New) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the subjecting step is performed on a suspension containing from 2 to 20% by weight of the azo coupling product, based on the total weight of the suspension.

15) (New) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the subjecting step is performed on a suspension containing from 3 to 17.5% by weight of the azo coupling product, based on the total weight of the suspension.

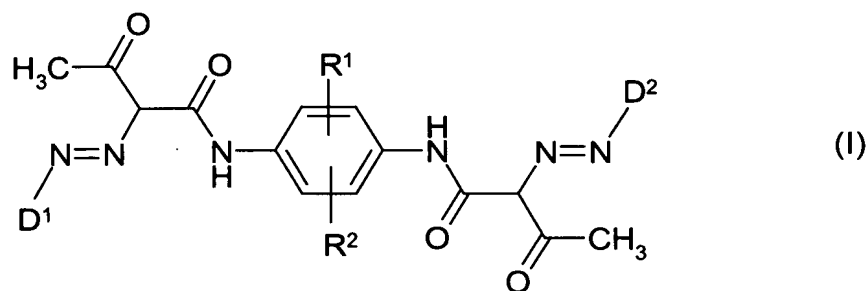
16) (New) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one organic solvent ~~for the finish~~ is methanol, ethanol, isopropanol, isobutanol, tert.-butanol or tert.-amyl alcohol, butyl glycol or a mixture thereof.

17) (New) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the aqueous solution contains from 5 to 90% of the at least one organic solvent.

18) (New) The process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the subjecting step is carried out at a temperature of between 15° and 200°C.

19) (New) A diazo pigment or mixture of diazo pigments made in accordance with the process of claim 1.

20) (New) A process for preparing a disazo pigment or a mixture of disazo pigments of the formula (I) by azo coupling



wherein,

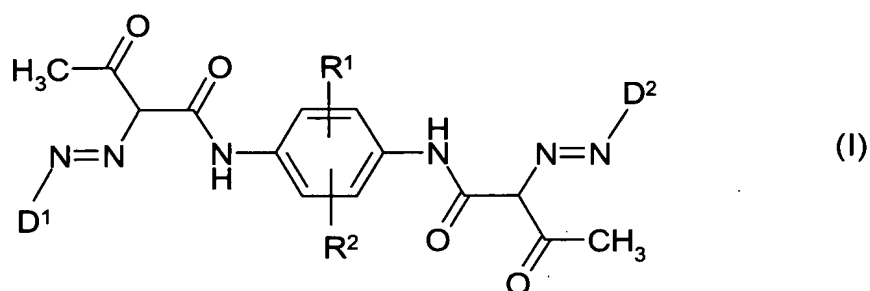
R¹ and R² are identical or different and are hydrogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, C₁-C₅ alkoxy carbonyl, nitro, cyano, halogen, phenoxy or trifluoromethyl;

D¹ and D² are identical or different and are an aromatic heterocycle selected from the group consisting of benzimidazole, benzimidazolone, benzimidazolethione, benzoxazole, benzoxazolone, benzothiazolone, indazole, phthalimide, naphthalimide, benzotriazole, quinoline, benzodiazines, phenmorpholine, phenmorpholinone, benzo[c,d]indolone, benzimidazo[1,2-a]pyrimidone, carbazole and indole, said heterocycles being unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, 3 or 4 identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of halogen, C₁-C₄ alkyl, acetamido, carbomethoxyamino, C₁-C₄ alkoxy, nitro, phenyl, phenoxy and trifluoromethyl, wherein the phenyl radical is optionally substituted by chloro, methyl or methoxy, and wherein the heterocycle is attached directly or via a phenylene group to the azo group in formula (I),

comprising the step of subjecting the azo coupling product to a finish in at least one organic solvent in the presence of a base selected from the group consisting of alkali metal hydroxides and alkali metal alkoxides.

21. (New) A diazo pigment or a mixture of diazo pigments made in accordance with the process of claim 20.

22. (New) A process for preparing a disazo pigment or a mixture of disazo pigments of the formula (I) by azo coupling



wherein,

R^1 and R^2 are identical or different and are hydrogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy, C_1 - C_5 alkoxy carbonyl, nitro, cyano, halogen, phenoxy or trifluoromethyl;
 D^1 and D^2 are identical or different and are an aromatic heterocycle selected from the group consisting of benzimidazole, benzimidazolone, benzimidazoethione, benzoxazole, benzoxazolone, benzothiazolone, indazole, phthalimide, naphthalimide, benzotriazole, quinoline, benzodiazines, phenmorpholine, phenmorpholinone, benzo[c,d]indolone, benzimidazo[1,2-a]pyrimidone, carbazole and indole, said heterocycles being unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2, 3 or 4 identical or different radicals selected from the group consisting of halogen, C_1 - C_4 alkyl, acetamido, carbomethoxyamino, C_1 - C_4 alkoxy, nitro, phenyl, phenoxy and trifluoromethyl, wherein the phenyl radical is optionally substituted by chloro, methyl or methoxy, and wherein the heterocycle is attached directly or via a phenylene group to the azo group in formula (I),

comprising the step of subjecting the azo coupling product to a finish in an aqueous solution containing the at least one organic solvent, at alkali $pH \geq 9$.

23. (New) A diazo pigment or a mixture of diazo pigments made in accordance with the process of claim 22.